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DOCKET NO: K0448.70017US00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ouchi et al.
Serial No:
Confirmation No:
Filed: Herewith
For: PAPERMAKING NEEDLE FELT
Examiner:
Art Unit:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THE DUTY OF
DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

PART I: Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement has been filed within three months of the filing date of a National Application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d).

PART II: Information Cited

The Applicant hereby makes of record in the above-identified application the information listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified). The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the references.

PART III: Explanation of Non-English Language References and Remarks Concerning Other Information Cited

The following is a concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified):

Where English language translations of the non-English language references have been provided, the translation is believed to show the relevance of the reference. Where no English language translation is available, but an English language abstract has been provided, the English language abstract is believed to explain the relevance to the extent known by Applicants. Where no English language abstract is available, the drawings are believed to show the relevance.

The following are remarks concerning the other information cited.

PART IV: Remarks

Documents cited anywhere in the Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed unless otherwise indicated. It is respectfully requested that:

1. The Examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;
2. The enclosed form PTO-1449 be signed by the Examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application;
3. The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

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- 3 -

Art Unit:

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

Notwithstanding any statements by the Applicant, the Examiner is urged to form his own conclusion regarding the relevance of the cited information.

An early and favorable action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Ouchi et al., *Applicant*

By: 

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Docket No. K0448.70017US00

Date: *March 15, 2004*

XNDDX

FORM PTO-1449/A and B (Modified) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				APPLICATION NO.:		ATTY. DOCKET NO.: K0448.70017US00			
				FILING DATE: Herewith		CONFIRMATION NO.:			
				APPLICANT: Ouchi et al.					
				GROUP ART UNIT:		EXAMINER:			
Sheet	1	of	1						

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or of issue of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code		
	A1	5,207,873		Sanduja et al.	05/04/1993
	A2	6,284,380	B1	Martin et al.	09/04/2001

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document (not necessary)	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Translation (Y/N)
		Office/Country	Number	Kind Code			
	A3	JP	10-245788	A	Albany International Corp.	09-14-1988	Abstract
	A4	JP	06-065886	A	Huyck Licensco Inc.	03/08/1994	Abstract
	A5	JP	05-125685	A	Nippon Felt Co Ltd.	05/21/1993	Abstract
	A6	JP:	09-105094	A	Nippon Felt Co Ltd.	04/22/1997	Abstract
	A7	JP	2002-173886	A	Nippon Felt Co. Ltd.	06/21/2002	Abstract
	A8	JP	55-33811	B	Shikibo Ltd.	09/03/1980	Abstract
	A9	JP	02-074675	B2	Ichikawa Woolen Textile Co Ltd.	03/14/1990	Abstract

OTHER ART — NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS) title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, relevant page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation (Y/N)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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#EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

*a copy of this reference is not provided as it was previously cited by or submitted to the office in a prior application, Serial No. __, filed __, and relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 (continuation, continuation-in-part, and divisional applications).

[NOTE - Must provide a copy of any patent, publication, other information listed, even if it was previously submitted to, or cited by, the U.S. Patent Office in an earlier application, unless the earlier application is identified by the IDS and is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120, and the copy was provided in the earlier application.]